

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 67, and 68 I was unable to be present to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on these.

ANOTHER SEASON OF FEDERAL SPENDING

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, we are about to enter another season of federal spending decisions, beginning with a new stimulus package that will add another \$150 billion to our outrageous federal debt.

What are we getting for this spending? In my home counties of San Bernardino and Riverside, California, we have lost 30,000 jobs in the past year. Our unemployment rate is 14 percent. Houses have lost half of their value in 3 years, and foreclosures have gone from 3,000 3 years ago to nearly 48,000 last year. The stimulus and runaway spending have not brought jobs to my constituents, but they have increased one thing: Each man, woman and child could soon owe \$48,000 for their share of the federal debt. The CBO tells us that just 10 percent of last year's stimulus is being spent on job-creation. Let's not make that mistake again this year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 49 and rollcall No. 50, I was absent due to severe weather in Southeast Michigan which delayed my flight to Washington, DC.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" and "yea."

CONNOR PAUL KOSTELAC

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Connor Paul Kostelac. Connor is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Heart of America Council Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Connor has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the five years Connor has been involved with

Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Connor became a Brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow and earned the rank of Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Connor has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Connor worked to beautify two interior gardens at Mount St. Scholastica Monastery in Atchison, KS, through the placement of a St. Francis statue and additional landscaping.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Connor Paul Kostelac for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE CAPITOL BUILDING

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the 100th Anniversary of the South Dakota State Capitol building.

The South Dakota State Capitol building is located in Pierre, South Dakota. The South Dakota State Capitol building was designed by Minneapolis architects C.E. Bell and M.S. Detwiler and assembled between the years of 1905 and 1910. The building is more than 114,000 square feet in size and is made up of materials such as native field stone, Indiana limestone, and Vermont and Italian marble. The building is 161 feet tall, 190 feet wide, and 292 feet long and includes carved woodwork and marble, special cast brass, and hand laid stone. In 1977 the State of South Dakota decided to restore the building back to its original 1910 appearance. The restoration was completed in 1989 to the original color and style of the walls and drapes.

Some of the many important architectural features of the South Dakota Capitol building include the capitol floor, which is made of terrazzo tile, and was created by 66 Italian artists. Terrazzo tile is a type of marble flooring that consists of chips of marble meshed together through a process of layering which creates multicolored designs and patterns. The rotunda, an important feature of the capitol, encompasses a large 96-foot dome which can be seen outside the capitol. The inside bottom ring of the dome looks like ribbons strung together and joined as one to resemble government as eternal in nature. The dome also displays the pasque flower, which is the South Dakota state flower. The third floor holds both the House of Representatives and Senate floors where all the state's laws are debated and voted.

Over its 100 years of history, the capitol has stood as a testament to the beauty and strength that represents South Dakota, and I trust that this historic building will continue to remain a landmark for the next 100 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, on February 25, 2010, I missed rollcall vote 66 due to a doctor's appointment. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING RANDY POOLE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Randy Poole who retired this month after serving more than 34 years in municipal water utilities, including 18 momentous years in leadership positions at the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA). Randy served first as SCWA's Chief Engineer beginning in 1991 and then in 1994 assumed the dual role of General Manager/Chief Engineer. The Sonoma County Water Agency provides water independent of the California Water System to over 600,000 residents in Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin Counties.

Many Members of this House would recognize Randy who spent many hours visiting our offices promoting the SCWA's water projects, as well as legislation for salmon preservation, wetlands restoration and renewable energy. Randy, with his slicked back hair and often dressed in black and purple was not the stereotypical water technocrat with scientific calculator in his pocket and flow charts in his briefcase. He is an individual who could manage the day to day functions of the SCWA while sculpting a big vision of its future.

Randy played an important role in garnering support for an \$800 million Pacific Salmon restoration program involving the efforts of five states to restore the habitat of 16 salmonid species, including our native Russian River chinook and coho and steelhead trout. It was also Randy who spearheaded local efforts to complete a Biological Opinion on the effects of federal and local water projects on Russian River salmon and steelhead, a project that took 11 years and now must be implemented.

Under his leadership, the SCWA put biologists to work doing fish counts and measuring habitat; engineers designing wastewater irrigation systems; water efficiency experts looking at industrial water use; gardeners planting low water landscapes; wetlands experts restoring the Napa Salt Marsh; oceanographers studying ocean currents and wave energy; and energy consultants examining new pathways to clean and plentiful renewable energy.

His driving style has not come without controversy. A three year drought coupled with environmental restrictions that have constrained flows from the SCWA main reservoir, has sometimes brought the agency at odds with water contractors who have balked at reduced flows and conservation plans. When Randy began working at SCWA in 1991, one of his charges was to smooth the way for the Agency to obtain new water rights at Warm Springs Dam. Randy, however, recognized the